

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5648

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4338

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY ON AIRCRAFT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: MEETING WITH CIO-DIRGEN FLOWER

1. MEETING WITH FLOWER IN BRAND FOURIE'S OFFICE PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. PURPOSE OF MEETING APPEARED TO BE LOW-KEY EFFORT TO REMIND US AND UK OF IMPORTANCE OF DE-ESCALATION AND PROVISION OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO SUCCESS OF NEW DISPENSATION. HE DESCRIBED DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING MOTIVATION OF WHITE AND BLACK TROOPS TO CONTINUE ANTI-GUERRILLA EFFORT AND NOTED DANGERS OF FACTION FIGHTING AMONG BLACKS. ON SUPPLIES HE RENEWED APPEAL THAT RHODESIA BE ALLOWED OBTAIN MODEST AMOUNTS OF UNSOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. HE NOTED THAT PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THERE WERE SOME EARLY POSITIVE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION. HE SAID RHODESIANS NATURALLY WOULD THINK OF BRITISH ASSISTANCE ONCE CONSTITUTIONALITY RESTORED.

2. I CONFINED MY COMMENT TO: (A) REAFFIRMING OUR INTEREST IN DOING EVERYTHING FEASIBLE TO MAKE SETTLEMENT SUCCEED, AND (B) NOTING THAT YOU HAD ADDRESSED YOURSELF TO SPECIFICS OF TWO ISSUES IN DISCUSSIONS LAST SUNDAY AND SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES. FLOWER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS THE CASE. SCOTT CAUTIONED AGAINST EXPECTATION THAT RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY

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BRING FLOW OF SUPPLIES AND NOTED THAT HE WAS OTHERWISE

UNINSTRUCTED IN THESE MATTERS.

3. AT END OF MEETING HAWKINS REPORTED ON PHONE CALL FROM GAYLORD REPORTING ON STATUS OF MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS. HE SAID MORNING SESSION HAD DEALT WITH CLARIFICATION OF POINTS. SMITH THEN RECESSED MEETING FOR LONG LUNCH HOUR TO LET DELEGATES THINK THINGS OVER. MEETING RECONVENED LATER THIS AFTERNOON. HAWKINS SPECULATED SESSSION MIGHT END TONIGHT IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD CALL ME. HE RELAYED GAYLARD'S COMMENT THAT IAN SMITH WAS HAPPY ON HOW THINGS ARE GOING.

4. BRAND FOURIE VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO PRESSING RHODESIANS FOR COMMITMENT ON SPEECH TONIGHT. HE FEARS THIS WOULD JEOPARDIZE PERSUASION PROCESS WHICH SMITH HAS FOLLOWED SUCCESSFULLY WITH OTHER GROUPS. I AGREE THAT WITH THINGS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND WITH SMITH MAKING PREPARATIONS TO SPEAK TOMORROW NIGHT, WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO FORCE THE ISSUE TONIGHT.
BOWDLER

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